

MODULE 1. INTRODUCTION. CONTEXT, HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE.

Capsule 1. International geopolitics, local history, migration routes.

[According to the video's slides]

In this module we will present a short geopolitical representation of the impact of colonialism on actual people displacement and the role of social movements and human rights in the cities.

[1] First of all, we have to see migration and cities together because cities are the result of migrations.

[2] Today, the majority of the world's population lives in urban areas, a proportion that is expected to increase.

[3] Here you can see the origins of cities and the great migrations...

[4] and here are the Middle Ages European fortress cities and the first ghetto in Venice.

[5] In this map you can see the triangular trade and the development of cities-ports in Europe, Africa and America, between the 16th and 19th centuries, with the forced labor of 12 million enslaved African people.

[6] Well connected to these processes, were the French revolution in 1789, the declaration of Human Rights and the first in the world abolition of slavery that took place in Haiti in 1791.

[7] During the 19th century, industrialization, migration and working class conditions were the causes of revolutions and new plannings for the European cities.

[8] This is the example of Barcelona, a planning from Ildefonso Cerdà that responded to the urgency of providing social and health solutions. This plan was also a response to migration.

[9] In the beginning of the 20th century, the new arrivals to the US cities lived according to their social and ethnic status. This model comes from the observations of the School of Chicago.

[10] Here are some paradigms of demonstrations, riots and revolutions; in Chicago for the eight-hour work day,

[11] in Mexico and Russia, in the beginning of the 20th century, both agrarian revolutions where people entered into the city.

[12] In the sixties, in Mexico, Paris and New York, many revolts took place. At this time Henri Lefebvre spoke about “the right to the city” and Manuel Castells about “urban social movements”.

[13] During the same decade, in the ghetto of the Black Cities of North America, after many uprisings, the Black Power was born. Angela Davis spoke about racism feminism and revolution. At the same time, Loic Wacquant spoke about urban outcasts.

[14] From 1960 to 1980 there were also revolutions in Maghreb suburbs of Paris that created new social movements concerning urban planning politics.

[15] During the same decades, in the city of Mexico the urban politics of “laissez faire” gave rise to new urban social movements in suburban space like Nezahualcoyotl city.

[16] There are many more other paradigms that the cities are the result of migration and revolts for social rights.

[17] Here you can see a map of the 20st-21st century migrations.

[18] As for the border cities, are they the new ghettos; the new ‘borders’ away from Europe and the EU?

Is this a natural phenomenon? No, this is a political decision.

[19] Current migrations from African and Asian countries, due to their wars and dictatorships, are highlighting an accumulation of capital due to dispossession of commons and people.

Humanitarian aid is full of hypocrisy because it is preventing the passage to Europe and the US.

[20] The attack of Sept 11th of 2001 in New York opened a path for the criminalization of migratory movements and other social movements.

[21] In these two maps you can see the world of the rich as well as Europe of the drowned refugees.

[22] Here is the Lampedusa letter for the right of all to the city.

[23] A rebellious Latin American perspective of urban-regional social movements can decolonize the urban imaginary.

Space is fundamental within this process, which is why geography is important.

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